



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

January 2004



Data Manager Position: I'm happy to report that Joel Brumm has accepted the position of Data Manager. Joel is currently a GIS Manager at the U. of Kentucky. He has also worked with a private consulting firm, the City of Fayetteville, Arizona State University, City of New York-Dept. of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Forest Service. His degree is in Watershed Management from the U. of Arizona. He will come on board February 23. Joel will of course be available to help parks in their GIS needs.

STEP Computer Assistant: Erin Handberg is now on board as a part-time computer assistant. She will develop the I&M web page and other databases. She does not have a phone, but can be reached via my number or at erin_handberg@nps.gov

Annual I&M Meeting: I was very happy with the annual I&M Meeting held January 15. I thank everyone for their participation, especially the speakers. I have copies of all presentations should you want one (they will also be posted on our web page). That same week, I attended the NEKOTA administrative meeting. At some point in the future (probably when we get full funding), the I&M Program will utilize all of the NEKOTA administrative services (and pay a fee, of course). Until then I will get help wherever I can, i.e., contracting by NEKOTA, personnel/PCS by the RO, and IT by Mt. Rushmore. Other admin needs will be provided by Badlands NP, Mt. Rushmore, and the RO.

Technical Committee Meeting: The Technical Committee met on the afternoon of January 14 (minutes are available). The Committee received updates on vegetation, water, and air monitoring, as well as other topics. The Committee also discussed the use of FY04 discretionary funds. Following a presentation by Peter Budde, the Committee recommended that the I&M Program acquire IKONOS satellite imagery for those small parks that don't currently have adequate imagery (pending further analysis of the cost and the amount of buffering around each park). Those parks are Devils Tower NM, Fort Laramie NHS, Fort Union Trading Post NHS, Jewel Cave NM, Knife River Indian Villages NHS, Mount Rushmore NMEM, and Scotts Bluff NM.

SDSU Water Quality Project: As you know, we have developed an agreement with Dr. Nels Troelstrup of South Dakota State U. to develop the aquatic portion of our Vital Signs plan. Part of that agreement includes data mining. I will do what I can to relieve the burden on parks by referring Nels and his staff to the GIS Clearinghouse, NPSpecies, NatureBib, the Water Resources Division reports, the Investigator Annual Reports (IAR), and other national databases. Still, there may be some data at your park not available through those databases; if so please make sure it gets to him. Nels and his staff will be visiting your park in 2004, but if they have the background data prior to then it will be of great help. (His staff includes Jill Rust, Jessica Meisenhoelder, and Mike Walerak).

Miscellaneous: We now have a fax: the number is 605 574-2173. Yippee!